

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2007**

The special meeting was called to order by Mayor Edward Zimmerman at 7:45 PM followed by the salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The following notice was read into the record by Mayor Zimmerman: This special meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were faxed to the Courier News, Somerset Messenger Gazette, and Somerset Spectator on January 10, 2007. In addition, copy of said notice was posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall, the Rocky Hill Post Office, the Mary Jacobs Library, and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk on aforementioned date. Notices on the bulletin boards have remained continuously posted.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Mr. Brian Griner-present, Mr. William Hallman-present, Mr. Dan Harrington-present, Ms. Courtney White-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present.

REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS BY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNING BODY VACANCY

Letter of resignation effective December 30, 2006, was received from Councilman Richard Batchelder (Republican) and distributed. Mayor Zimmerman and Attorney Cruz provided an overview of the Municipal Vacancy Law as it pertains to the filling of this unexpired term. The name of one nominee, Tom Roshetar, was provided by the Republican Committee on January 16, 2007, to Borough Clerk Griffiths. It was noted that failure to provide the names of three candidates by the Republican Committee results in failure on the part of the Republican Committee to comply with the applicable statute.

The process by which the governing body makes the appointment per statute was summarized. Also discussed was the process that would be followed by Mayor and Council for the filling of the current vacancy similar to the previous process followed by the vacated seat of Bradford Merritt. It was agreed that Republicans Tom Roshetar and Martin Engelbrecht (candidate for vacancy in the prior selection process for Council member) would be considered by Mayor and Council in the selection process. Motion was made by Griner with a second by White that Mayor and Council members would provide names of nominees for consideration to the Borough Clerk by 5:00 PM on January 24, 2007. Motion carried on roll call vote. Notice of interest to residents will be posted on the website, in the library, post office, and in the Courier News.

Motion was made by Griner with a second by Witt to hold a special meeting on January 29, 2007, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of possible appointment to the vacancy. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNING BODY VACANCY/OATH OF OFFICE

Carried to January 29, 2007, special meeting.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PROCESS

Mayor Zimmerman requested that department liaisons provide a rough draft of 2007 budget requests to both he and Councilman Griner by February 1, 2007. An overview of the budget process was discussed; budget workshop to be scheduled.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Peggy Harris, resident – In response to Ms. Harris' question about the process followed by Mr. Engelbrecht regarding his interest in serving on Council, Mayor Zimmerman advised Ms. Harris to confer with Mr. Engelbrecht directly in this regard.

Hearing no other comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

Motion was made by Witt with a second by Harrington authorizing the payment of vouchers as outlined on bill list dated 1/17/07 (Appendix 1). Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made by Griner with a second by Witt to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk